Remarks

In the interest of clarity, the paragraph numbers hereafter match the paragraph numbers in the Office Action.

1-2.   The Office Action rejected each of claims 9 and 10 as anticipated by Morange. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled.

4-8.

(Also applicable to paragraph 3 in the response to applicant's most recent response).

The Office Action rejected each of claims 1-8 and 11-13 as obvious over Morange in view of Felsher. Claims 11-13 have been cancelled. Applicant strongly traverses the rejection of claims 1-8.

Claim 1 requires, among other things, that a clinical exchange server (1) maintain a reference table that includes patient identification numbers used by each of several applications wherein (2) at least some of the patient identification numbers are application distinct.

Morange fails to teach or suggest a reference table of any type, much less a reference table that includes application distinct patient identification numbers (and indeed the Office Action relied on Felsher to teach these limitations).

Felsher, like Morange, fails to teach or suggest an exchange server that maintains a table including application distinct patient identification numbers. To this end, as an initial matter, Felsher clearly teaches a system wherein universal patient identification numbers are contemplated (see paragraph 266 that teaches that a social security number is typically universally employed as an identification number) for use across different applications/computers. Universal identification numbers are the exact opposite of application distinct identification numbers and therefore Felsher teaches away from the claim 1 invention.

The most recent Office Action indicates that private encryption keys are some

how akin to application distinct patient identification numbers. An analysis of how encryption keys are used to securely transmit data is instructive here. According to encrypted transmission schemes like the one described in Felsher, for a first application to transmit information to a target application in a secure manner, the first application has to be able to transform information into a coded form using an encryption key where the coded form can only be decoded using the private key associated with (i.e., used by) the target application. Where the first application may transmit information to two or more different target applications, the first application has to know how to transform the information into two different coded forms, one for the first target application and one for the second target application (e.g., into a form that can be decoded by the second target application using the private key associated with the second target application). Thus, Felsher at least suggests that the first application in this example maintains a database including <u>application distinct encryption keys or codes</u>.

Nevertheless, an encryption key is <u>not</u> akin to an application distinct patient identification number. On one hand, a patient identification number is used by an application to refer to a specific patient that a record is related to. On the other hand, an encryption key is used to transform information from one form to another and cannot be used alone to reference a specific patient or patient record. The fact that the encryption keys are associated with a specific target application is ancillary - the encryption keys are not related to any specific patient(s), Thus, if we could simply examine Felsher's encryption key table, the table would include <u>no information related to patient identification numbers</u> or from which such information could be gleaned.

To be sure each key in Felsher's table could be used to generate data that is encoded to be used only by a specific application by transforming a universal patient identification numbers using the key, but such a transformation would only result in a single instance of application specific data. A single instance of application distinct data is not a table that includes a list of applications and associated application distinct patient identification numbers. For at least the above reasons Applicant believes claim 1 and claims that depend there from are distinct over the references cited and requests
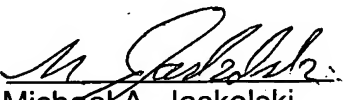
that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 5 includes limitations similar to the limitations of claim 1. For at least the above reasons Applicant believes claim 5 and claims that depend there from are distinct over the references cited and requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicant has introduced no new matter in making the above remarks. In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes claims 1-13 of the present application recite patentable subject matter and allowance of the same is requested. No fee in addition to the fees already authorized in this and accompanying documentation is believed to be required to enter this amendment, however, if an additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 17-0055 in the amount of the fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12-5-06

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